

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, No. 9

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

JANUARY 1999

"When it shall be said in any country in the world, my poor are happy, my jails are empty of prisoners & my streets of beggars, then may that country boast of its constitution and its government." Thomas Paine

Bombing Iraq - Misery on Ramadan

Jerome Johnson

As I write this, American and British armed forces are bombing Iraq.

This is the third day in a row of bombing, three harrowing nights for the long-suffering Iraqi people. The

have been killed, are maimed, or are missing. I don't know how many families will be hungry, cold and homeless in the winter because of the attacks, but I do know that Saddam Hussein's family won't be one of them. And, again thanks to the embargo, rebuilding will be difficult if not impossible for these people who have no ability to

would just rise up and overthrow their Government, says the Administration, the sanctions would end and Iraq could rejoin the world community. The same would be true if the Administration finally succeeds in "taking out"—this is, assassinating—Saddam.

This isn't just wishful thinking; it's pure bullshit. Saddam's Iraq is a police state rivaled only by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in its tight, brutal control of the nation and its people. Moreover, any such efforts are badly weakened by the sanctions. And there are big risks that such efforts could result in a disastrous civil war involving other regional powers, like the situation now occurring in Congo, which could escalate into a world war. I don't think I need to explain the possible ramifications.

The idea of assassinating Saddam is just as stupid. Who would replace him? It's very possible that he could be replaced by a general or junta generals who are even worse than he is, or his son Odai, who by all accounts is as evil as Heinrich Himmler was.

Moreover, we need to remember

(Continued page 8)

I don't know how many civilians have been killed, are maimed, or are missing. I don't know how many families will be hungry, cold and homeless in the winter because of the attacks, but I do know that Saddam Hussein's family won't be one of them.

Administration claims the strikes are to punish Saddam Hussein for rebuffing UNSCOM, and to "degrade his ability to develop and deploy weapons of mass destruction (WMD)." But all I see on my TV screen is rubble in the streets of Baghdad, and badly injured civilians lying in hospitals. The injured people are suffering more because of shortages of medicines and equipment caused by the embargo.

I don't know how many civilians

change their government and no one to champion their cause.

I'm fully aware of the controlled access Hussein has allowed the media. My point is, the Iraqi people have endured bitterly harsh conditions under the embargo, not the least of which is an astonishing high rate of child mortality in a nation that used to have one of the lowest in the region.

In a sickening irony, I'm told that this is the Iraqis' own fault. If they

MAXXAM Aluminum Ship Stopped by Earth First!, Steelworkers and Wobblies

Robert Cherwink

A coalition of striking aluminum workers, members of the IWW and Earth First! successfully blockaded a shipload of Australian aluminum ore from docking at the port of Tacoma Washington on Monday, December 7.

3,100 members of the United Steel

cross the picket in solidarity with the striking workers. The only rough point in an otherwise smooth action came when the climbers on the conveyor, who had waited through calm weather for slow responding media, deployed a 50 foot banner in gusty winds and were tossed like rag dolls for several minutes.

Whilesome inroads have been made

Earth First! operatives locked down at the tip of a shipping crane and to an elevated ore conveyor while unionists and other activists picketed the port's terminal 7 and a flotilla of small boats blocked the waterway forcing the 650 ton ore transport Sea Diamond to anchor off.

Workers of America local 7945 have been on strike against Kaiser Aluminum since September 30, citing unfair labor practices and planned layoffs at plants in Tacoma and Spokane and other plants across the country. Earth First! operatives locked down at the tip of a shipping crane and to an elevated ore conveyor while unionists and other activists picketed the port's terminal 7 and a flotilla of small boats blocked the waterway forcing the 650 ton ore transport Sea Diamond to anchor off. Members of the Longshoreman's Union refused to

in forging solidarity between timber workers and environmentalists in California, this is the first time such groups have worked together at this level. Two Earth Firsters were arrested and three others were issued citations. New ties were forged between the groups involved and activists from each camp were abuzz with plans for future cooperation.

The Sea Diamond did eventually dock late in the day, but unloading still had not begun as of Dec. 9, since longshoremen preparing for work Tuesday discovered that the conveyor had

been damaged. Rumor has it that the sabotage targeted critical and difficult points in the unloading apparatus. The reported damage and cutting of the conveyor belt is estimated to cost \$50,000 and several days' delay.

Longshoremen, bound by arbitration to continue work, have been slow about unloading scab bound ore from previous shipments. It took them twice as long as usual to unload the last ship. A single day's delay costs MAXXAM some \$32,000.

Kaiser aluminum is 68% owned by Charles Hurwitz's MAXXAM corp. and both unionists and environmentalists scored media hits against the controversial corporate plunderer, drawing parallels between MAXXAM's treatment of workers and the environment. "HURWITZ CUTS JOBS JUST LIKE HE CUTS TREES" read the giant banner above symbols of the United Steelworkers, IWW and Earth First!

The banner hand made all the local outlets in addition to coverage on Northwest Cable News, UP, NPR, and a brief live CNN cut. Given Julia Butterfly's NBC evening news coverage the same night from the Headquarters old growth protest in California, it was a pretty bad press day for Hurwitz.

• (See related article on page 14)

Santa Protests Sweatshops at Wal-Mart

by Jeffrey Sowers

Despite pouring rain, on Saturday morning, December 12, seven dedicated activists from Olympia made their way 25 miles south to the Chehalis WAL-MART. With many signs and one of us dressed in a Santa costume, we made a substantial presence. The demonstration started at 10:00 AM, at which time the rain miraculously lifted (almost literally to the minute!). Most shoppers could not but help to wave to Santa. As their hands moved back and forth of their own will, people had funny, inquisitive looks on their faces as they studied our signs.

At about 10:45 AM, Santa led a delegation to the front of the store while several stayed behind to maintain the presence near the parking lot entrance. We leafleted cars on our way up to the front doors. Directly in front of the main entrance we handed out leaflets while Santa accommodated requests from parents to say hello to the kids. At About 11:00 AM a reporter and photographer from the local daily (Centralia) showed up. The reporter did short interviews with Santa and other members of the delegation while the photographer took quite a few pictures. After we had been in front of the store leafleting for at least 20 minutes the manager finally emerged to ask us to leave. Santa expressed his concern about child labor and human rights abuses in factories producing for Wal-Mart, but the manager would not comment and just kept insisting that we leave the property or he would call the police. The photographer did get a picture of Santa talking to the manager. We then peacefully left Wal-Mart property and returned to our spot near the parking lot entrance.

By this time our soggy signs (a light rain had started) were falling apart and the paint was running, so we decided to call it a day at 11:30 AM. We all felt good about the presence we had made and thought the day had been an overall success despite the bad weather.

Some of us plan to get together soon to discuss ways in which we can build a broader base of support within the community to continue to further the efforts of this campaign. We will keep in touch.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@olywa.net

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index. Back issues are also available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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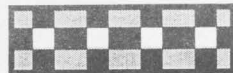
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.



Letters & Briefs



The Community Sustaining Fund announces its Fall 1998 grant recipients: Bread & Roses—Community Families Project: \$270 to buy equipment for a new family oriented drop-in center; Center for World Indigenous Studies—Kowlitch Ilahee Mapping Project: \$250 towards a project that will document and map the original homeland and territories of the Cowlitz People; Enterprise for Equity: \$265 towards office start up cost (EE will provide entrepreneurial training for low-income people); Thurston County Tenants Union: \$300 towards office start-up cost; Thurston Union of Low-Income People (TULIP): \$200 towards cost of organizing and membership recruitment for a low-income peoples credit union; and Woman's Carpentry Cooperative: \$500 for initial rental cost for a carpentry shop—the goal of WCC is to make carpentry skills and tools accessible to South Sound women.

With the completion of the Fall 1998 Grant Cycle, the CSF has returned \$42,627 to our community in the form of awards to local activists since the organization's founding in 1987. Twice a year the CSF awards money to local groups and individuals engaged in social justice, environmental protection and community building projects. The CSF tends to award funds for startup cost of projects that might otherwise go unfunded, but with the expectation that these projects will become self-sustaining. Grant funds available this cycle were small and we had far more worthy efforts apply for grants than we could fund. Grant funds are derived from contributing individuals and businesses. Special thanks goes to the Olympia Food Co-op for their ongoing support, as well as those co-op shoppers who round up for their purchases. Thanks to everyone for continuing to "roundup" for social change. Activist and community members can look forward to the announcement of our Spring 1999 grant cycle in February. The Community Sustaining Fund is always looking to expand and diversify our board of directors. Contact Community Sustaining Fund, 2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502.

Progressive Roundtable Forum Continues

Over the past year, this TCTV program has showcased over 40 area activists, organizations and projects. In December our program theme was 'Spiritual Alternatives to Mainstream Religion'. In 1999, the program will

show on Tuesdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 5pm. If you get channel 3 check it out! If you want to be on the show or know someone who would or have suggestions for upcoming programs contact Chris Stegman at 705-3528.

Also check out the series "Radical Alternative Media Project Presents:" which will showcase various social justice videos on a wide range of topics. This show is sponsored by the Olympia Political Cultural Center. For more information about RAMP call 705-2726.

And don't miss "Keeping an Eye on the Police" airing on Mondays at 9pm and Wednesdays at 9:30am.

And don't forget, you can join TCTV for \$25/year, get free training and do your own show!

Citizen's Forum on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and Global Economic Literacy

Sunday January 10th, 12:30- 4:30 pm
Olympia Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, 2200 East End St NW

On January 10th a group of local social justice and environmental organizations will be sponsoring a citizen's forum on global economic literacy and the stalled Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). The forum will include brief presentations by local officials and activist, and concurrent sessions on governance, the environment, labor and human rights. The afternoon will conclude with discussion of a proposed Citizen's MAI. The forum will give citizens an opportunity to examine different elements of the MAI and see how they might affect aspects of society.

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) is a far reaching and controversial investment agreement that backers say simply seeks to standardize investment regulation among 29 of most powerful industrialized nations. Critics have raised concerns that elements of the MAI will have the effect of exempting foreign corporations from following domestic laws if such laws could be shown to have a negative impact of the profitability of foreign owned investments. Moreover,

(Continued page 15)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Jan. 22nd

6pm at Bulldog News

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 26th
7pm at Olympia Library

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JANUARY 1999

"The triple evils of poverty, racism, and war were [Martin's] concerns wherever they were found in the world. He devoted his life to the process of uprooting them. By reaching into and beyond ourselves and tapping the transcendent ethic of love, we shall overcome these evils. Love, truth, and the courage to do what is right should be our own guideposts on this lifelong journey."

Coretta Scott King

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	"Knowing this President's admitted history of "misleading" the American people and the fact that this operation commenced the evening before he was to be impeached in the House, the informed citizen may perhaps be forgiven if he suspects that the real intention is otherwise." Robert J. Kovacs			1 1959- Cuban revolution triumphs as Batista flees f 1995 - Zapatistas lead a rebellion against gov	2 1998 - State Personnel Board rules TESC police Sgt. Savage must be rehired, yet demoted w/ \$5,000 pay cut
3 1996 - 100 supporters of the Needle-exchange program attend city council meeting with 1,500 signature petition	4 1998 - Israel's foreign minister angrily resigns denouncing Netanyahu for abandoning the peace process	5 1997 - FBI reports drop in violent crime for fifth straight year 1998 - Sonny Bono dies on CA ski slope	6 1998 - Nisqually Tribe closes commercial chum salmon fishery on Nisqually River early due to poor fish return	7 1998 - Idaho judge ordered FBI sharpshooter to stand trial for killing Vicki Weaver in 1992 siege at Ruby Ridge	8 1998 - Wenatchee/Yakima workers reject Teamsters 1998 - State Supreme Court ends term limits	9 1995 - Barbara Durham is sworn in as the first female chief justice of Washington state's Supreme Court
10 1966- Julian Bond denied seat in Georgia House of Representatives due to his opposition of Vietnam War	11 1998 - Children's Vaccine Initiative: 4 million die annually due to underutilization of vaccines in poor countries	12 1997 - Justice Department says drug offenders account for third of felony convictions in state courts in 1994	13 1997 - African-American WWII veteran, Vernon Baker, finally receives Medal of Honor	14 1878- Supreme Court finds railroads need not provide equal accommodation to all passengers regardless of race	15 1929- MLK, Jr. born. 1922- Irish Free State is established 1995 - 360 area code goes into effect	16 1997 - Bomb explodes at Atlantic abortion clinic, 2nd bomb went off hour later, designed to maim and hurt
17 1997 - House ethics committee votes to reprimand Speaker Newt Gingrich for rules violations	18 1998 - Justice Department reports nation's prison/jail population increased 6% in 1997, 1 in 155 incarcerated	19 1995 - 25 block logging crew access to site near TESC 1996 - TESC Jennifer Harbury speaks	20 1998 - Clinton denies "improper sexual relationship: with intern 1998 - Pope John Paul II arrives in Cuba	21 1998 - Ivana Trump buys 33% of Croatia's 2nd-largest newspaper 1998 - Whoopi will be center square Sept 14	22 1973 - <i>Roe v. Wade</i> 1998 - Federal judge postpones the deposition of White House intern, Monica Lewinsky	23 1998 - Judge Pomeroy rules state retirees to be repaid by state for being overcharged for healthcare premiums
24 1842- Citizens in Haverhill, Massachusetts petition Congress for peaceful dissolution of the Union	25 1998 - White officials insist sex scandal won't hamper US decisions on the weapons stand-off with Iraq	26 1998 - Federal judge blocks Navy from dismissing sailor who listed himself as "gay" on his AOL profile	27 1814 - Creek Indian War: Tennessee militia lose at Calabee Creek 1823- US recognizes Chile and Argentina	28 1998 - Court of Appeals rules Washington tribes entitled by treaties to share in shellfish taken on private	29 1998 - Bomb explodes at abortion clinic killing an off-duty police officer, first fatal bombing at an abortion clinic	30 1968 - N Vietnam launches Tet Offensive, turning point in Vietnam War, N Vietnamese lose 58,000 soldiers
31 1998 - Defense Secretary Cohen says military strike against Iraq would be "substantial in size and...impact."	"When one man kills another man it is considered unrighteous and he is punished by death. Then by the same sign when a man kills 10 others, his crime will be 10 times greater, and should be punished by death ten times...Similarly, if a small crime is considered crime,			but a big crime such as attacking another country is applauded as a righteous act, can this be said to be knowing the difference between righteousness and unrighteousness." Mo Ti, 4th century Chinese philosopher		

Along the Color Line

Blacks In Britain

Dr. Manning Marable*Reported from London*

Fifty years ago, 492 Caribbean people arrived in Tilbury, England, on the ship Empire Windrush—and a new phase of British history began. After

The first law restricting alien entry was passed by the British Parliament in 1905. However, citizens of the British commonwealth (Canada, Australia, South Africa, etc.) and those defined as "imperial subjects" (such as Jamaicans, etc.) were governed by a more liberal set of rules. There was a long-standing tradition in the United Kingdom (UK) that permitted free mi-

Despite the continued reality of racial discrimination, blacks are fundamentally remaking British culture and society. Challenging oppression, the black struggle for justice in Britain will continue to grow.

the coming of the Windrush, hundreds of thousands of Caribbean, African and Asian people would ultimately migrate to Britain, forever transforming that country's racial profile.

I traveled to Britain to learn more about the situation confronting black people there. I came away with a new understanding of the striking parallels of oppression between African Americans and our sisters and brothers in England. Throughout the twentieth century, restrictive immigration laws and racist policies perpetuated a second class status for blacks in Britain.

gration throughout the empire, including to Britain. Commonwealth citizens, as British subjects, maintained the right to enter British territory freely and retained access to all citizen rights and privileges, including voting. Registration for British citizenship required only 12 months residence.

This was the immediate context for the coming of the Windrush. The door was opened for the immigration of Caribbean, Asian, and African people into Britain. By 1958, 125,000 Caribbean people were British residents. In the 1960s, many thousands more arrived from Asia and Africa.

The racial backlash against non European immigrants began with the economic recession of 1958, followed by Britain's first race riots in Nottingham and London's Notting Hill district. By 1959, some Conservative members of Parliament were making overt appeals to white racism. In Conservative Prime Minister Harold MacMillan's memoirs, he attributes this quotation to the famous British leader Winston Churchill: "Perhaps the cry of 'Keep Britain White' might be a good slogan."

By 1962, Parliament adopted the restrictive Commonwealth Immigrant Act. The negative impact of this new legislation was immediate. Net immigration in the six months prior to the implementation of the act was 86,700; for the six months after the act, immigration was 8,290. Between July 1962 and December 1964, the UK received 444,263 applications for work vouchers, but only 49,951 voucher holders were admitted. Both the Conservative Party and its opposition, the Labor Party, began to capitulate to the racist sentiments of white voters.

In the 1970s, the openly racist National Front emerged, making appeals to white working class voters frightened of losing their jobs to blacks. Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher warned that white Britain was endangered of being "swamped" by a tidal wave of blacks. The number of all immigrants accepted for settlement, which reached a peak of 92,000 in 1972, fell to its lowest level of 46,000 in 1987. In 1996, 62,000 immigrants were accepted, well below the figure of one quarter century ago.

A recent article by Leslie Goffe in *Emergence* documents the current state of the black community in Britain. Statistics from the Commission for Racial Equality, a British government agency, show that black Britons are twice as likely as whites to be unemployed and three times as likely as whites to be homeless. One quarter of the people stopped and searched by the police here are black and Asian, according to Commission figures. Yet, several years ago, when the government researched crime and young people, it found that young black people were far less likely to commit crimes than were young whites. Thirty-eight percent of all prisoners jailed in London are black. Afro-Caribbean men serve sentences 44 percent longer than white males, and black



women prisoners are incarcerated twice as long as white females.

There has also been a distributing rise of crimes in Britain. A 1996 survey revealed that six out of ten black people questioned, and four out of ten Asians, said they had suffered racially motivated physical or verbal abuse. Government figures indicate that racial attacks have risen dramatically over the past ten years.

Despite the continued reality of racial discrimination, blacks are fundamentally remaking British culture and society. Today, black and Asian children form a majority of all students in the 900 primary and secondary schools in London's 12 central boroughs. By 2010, one quarter of all London residents will be black and Asian. Challenging oppression, the black struggle for justice in Britain will continue to grow.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge and regularly appears in over 325 black and progressive publications worldwide.

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The Labor Party and the fight for Single Payer: Interview with Kit Costello

Laura Garcia

In the following interview, one of the Labor Party of America's co-chairs, Kit Costello speaks about the Labor Party's plans to launch a campaign to address the problems of our nation's health-care system.

Laura Garcia: How did you become involved in the Labor Party of America?

Kit Costello: We [the California Nurses Association] had done some collabo-

were opened to the idea. And we became an advocate union for the first convention of the Labor Party [in 1996]. ... What our members care deeply about is how health care is delivered and funded in this country, so we were happy about the platform on health care adopted at the convention. We have a natural affinity to focus on that.

LG: What has been accomplished since the 1996 Labor Party founding convention?

KC: When we left the convention, we

ing the person-to-person discussions and organizing. Some of the things we've done around the 28th Amendment Campaign — the right to a job — has been a good experience for different chapters and unions. We would like to do the same for health care.

LG: What are the Labor Party's plans around health care?

KC: The Interim Council has contributed some work product that we want to put out at the convention and create a campaign. This campaign will be different than what we see now with both political parties rushing to be the defenders of the insured patients. We see a much larger issue than just managed-care legislation for the insured.

Seeking incremental solutions ... takes energy and resources away from a campaign that could do a lot more to capture people's imagination and raise expectations. When you're successful getting something incremental, you delude people into thinking that you're partly there when you're actually creating a new part of the problem.

For example, the Children's Health Care Initiative. Nobody is against giving health care to children. But it leaves 40 percent ineligible, i.e., 4.2 million. And it's only for five years. Then we have the same problem after that.

We are seeing a shift from community to private control as more public hospitals are taken over by private interests. We've got a crisis that affects care givers, patients and the community. We would like the health-care campaign to focus on what the solution has to be to the crisis. We would

like to produce a lot of material that would be part of campaign material to educate people about single-payer insurance, and what a national health program would look like. Single-payer insurance is what Canadians have. Instead of the U.S. model of multiple insurance companies with separate contracts with selected doctors, hospitals and other health professionals, one "payer," the public insurance fund, pays all the bills.

This cuts out a tremendous amount of administrative waste and duplication — dollars that can then go to provide care. Here in the U.S., we have less choices because we have to go to doctors and hospitals with HMO contracts. Canadians can go anywhere for care. In the U.S., we are pouring millions of dollars into private insurance company coffers to finance their competition with each other, to deny us care, and to pay their CEOs and administrators lavish salaries. A publicly controlled, single-payer insurance fund would put a stop to this.

It will be a uniquely Labor Party campaign. We intend to be the anchor of a health-care movement. We want to put out a message that raises the level of expectation of what is possible. That's what our campaign will be.

The above interview is reprinted with permission from the People's Tribune/Tribuna del Pueblo, bilingual newspaper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, Illinois 60654. e-mail: pt@noc.org

We intend to be the anchor of a health-care movement. We want to put out a message that raises the level of expectation of what is possible.

rative work in the past with the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW) and, about a year and a half before the founding convention, Tony Mazzocchi approached us about whether we would be one of the unions to form the Labor Party. I felt the idea made sense. We had a "Corporate Power Training" to see if the message resonated about the state of this country and what an independent political voice can be to make changes. People

had done some very good work as far as coming up with a program for social and economic justice. It was simple. It reached the average person; that was something we could organize a political movement around. The question left is doing the work — the organizing for chapters and unions to take responsibility for reaching out with that message — signing up new party members.

The hard part of any campaign is do-

A Prescription for a Failing Health-Care System

Lisa Duran

Our current health-care system isn't working, and it's not ethical.

The New York Times reported that the number of uninsured Americans is

Bottom-line health care means providers feel pressure to focus on patients who are deemed "better risks" or "more compliant." But does this mean that patients with higher incomes are more compliant because they can afford expensive prescriptions? Or that they speak English better and so un-

We need a single-payer plan that will provide affordable health care for everyone. Single-payer keeps health-care delivery in the private sector, but eliminates insurance companies as the financier. Instead, the government would pay all health-care bills. When you consider that private insurance companies run an overhead of 26.3 percent, compared to 2.1 percent administrative overhead for government-run Medicare programs, this sounds like a good deal.

According to Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., a proponent of single-payer, our country could finance the system primarily through a payroll tax on employers and employees. This tax would take the place of payments that currently go to private insurance premiums. And the Congressional Budget Office repeatedly shows that the single-payer option would produce the greatest overall cost savings -- \$114 billion a year.

As long as health care is treated as a commodity, we will continue to find ourselves in the unconscionable position of trying to measure in dollars the value of a person's health. There are better ways. It's time to kill the sacred cow of market economics when it comes to health care in this country.

Lisa Duran is a research assistant at the University of Colorado at Denver, working with the Latino/a Research & Policy Center's Health Working Group. She previously ran a neighborhood clinic in northwest Denver, working with a predominantly Latino population. Copyright 1998, Lisa Duran. Re-print or electronic distribution without permission is prohibited. Call the Progressive Media Project for information, 608-257-4626.

In a country that has enough resources, relegating health care to the market is nothing less than turning our backs on the responsibility we have toward our communities.

the highest it's been in 10 years, according to the Census Bureau. Despite a strong economy, health-care and insurance costs are out of reach for many individuals and employees.

Latinos are the group most likely to be uninsured. Nearly 34 percent of Latinos have no health insurance, as do 21.5 percent of African Americans and 12 percent of whites.

Many of the uninsured are previous welfare recipients who are entering the job market in low-paying positions that do not offer health insurance. However, higher-income households also accounted for half the increase in the number of uninsured.

Meanwhile, health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are dropping Medicare services for the elderly in 15 states because they claim it doesn't pay. This move could affect nearly 300,000 of this nation's seniors.

Because the health-care system is driven by profit, health-care providers are compelled to deny care solely on the basis of cost. As a result, many patients do not get the services they need.

derstand instructions more quickly and clearly?

In a country that has enough resources to provide for all, relegating health care to the market is nothing less than turning our backs on the responsibility we have toward our communities.

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- Using Your Present Condition/Illness as a Springboard to Well-Being

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Save Washington's Future from Welfare Reform

STOP THE CLOCK

by Monica Peabody

Jolene is a single mother with two children. She receives no child support from their father and has never been able to find a job that will support her family without needing help from welfare. Last year, she was attending Community College hoping to be able to raise her earning potential to become free from needing assistance. However, when WorkFirst, Washington's welfare reform program, began in November, her caseworker told her she would have to quit school and find a job. She found a job in a local restaurant. She works full time, makes slightly over minimum wage, plus tips. However, she still is still eligible for welfare. Her grant is re-

duced to about \$100, but her subsidized rent has gone up and her food stamps have decreased and she can't do without the grant. Jolene's five year lifetime limit for receiving welfare, another condition of WorkFirst, is still ticking. What more should Jolene be doing?

If the Stop the Clock bill passes, grandparents caring for grandchildren and parents caring for children with disabilities, will no longer be using up their five year limit.

Carla, also a single mother, faces difficulties every day that many of us never face in a lifetime. Her son is not expected to live to adulthood. Carla refuses to believe this. She fiercely struggles to get him enrolled in the best physical therapy programs she can find. He can sit up by himself now. He is three years old. Carla was told by her WorkFirst caseworker that she must go to work. Carla answered that she would love to, but taking care of her son is a full time job, nobody can do it as well as she can, and childcare for her son, in the unlikely event that she could find it would cost an arm and a leg. She is told that regardless of that, she must attend a 40 hour, week long workshop or she will lose her benefits. What is Carla supposed to do?

When our lawmakers passed the WorkFirst regulations, they didn't expect to hurt families or endanger chil-

dren. However, the punitive nature of WorkFirst, for example, the five year lifetime limit, sanctions (grant reductions for non-compliance), do just that. These laws need to be fine tuned to make them fair for parents who are doing all they can. If the Stop the Clock bill passes, parents who are working or in an approved training program, grandparents caring for grandchildren and parents caring for children with disabilities, will no longer be using up their five year limit. We can do this by using state dollars

earmarked for welfare, rather than federal dollars, to pay for benefits for these families. This won't be an added cost for taxpayers. The money is already there and we must convince lawmakers that we want it to be used to stop the clock for families like Carla's and Jolene's.

WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, is holding an information and planning meeting on Tuesday, January 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, on 5th Avenue and Boundary. Child care and supper are provided. Come and find out how you can get involved in the Stop the Clock Campaign. Mini lobby days are scheduled for the third Thursdays of January, February and March. Go in groups to meet your legislators and educate them about how they can truly help children living in poverty. Please join us. Call Monica at 352-9716 for more information. •

BLAMING THE POOR

by Frank Hoffman

This series in *Works in Progress* about so-called welfare reform and its impact on people here in Olympia is intended to show that human beings like you and I receive welfare and are being hurt by the denial of humanity that this welfare reform really is. In the same way that real people, like you and I, are being murdered by our bombs in Iraq. Both kinds of policies, we are told by the government, are in the interests of the American people. These policies, we are told, are created by people, who know better than us, what is in our best interest as a people. When we think about this, we know that we are a people among many peoples in the world, none of us worth more than the other, none of us wiser than the other. All of us with reason to suspect and fear our leaders.

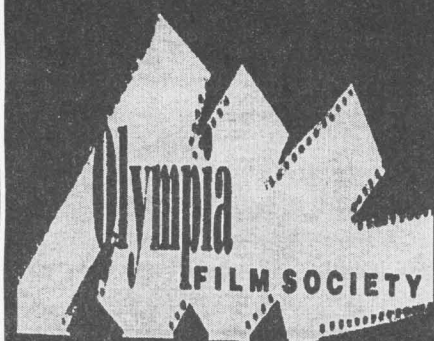
The people I have met at the Olympia meetings of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, who are mainly welfare recipients, are ordinary people trying their best to wrestle their way out of hard times. They look to their government for help and that government often treats them like shit. Apparently intentionally sometimes; and through indifference, other times.

They are often also helped by government. It's the unpredictability that would get me, make me anxious and cynical. How will I be treated this time?

There is now a 5 year lifetime limit on welfare. What a concept - you are allowed 5 years total of hard times here in America! That must mean, going into the 6th year, the government will stop telling me to fill out one form or another, lose it, blame me, then tell me to fill out another form; will stop shuffling me through one program after another, and instead will simply give me the resources to shelter, feed and raise my children in peace!

Or will my government tell me I no longer have a right to life? As in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

The law needs to be changed. This legislative session. The black man in prison because there are no jobs for him, the farmworker family sleeping out in the cold because there is no housing, the homeless man sneaking quietly through a downtown alley pulling his belongings on a makeshift cart behind him, the teenagers panhandling their way across America, and the woman alone with her children, trying to understand how this happened and trying to figure out what will happen next, how she will survive this stage in her life and the lives of her children. They deserve our attention, their cause is ours. We know them. They are not really strangers to us. And neither are the people in Iraq. •

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Laws against "partial-birth abortion" designed to stifle choice

Janet Benshoof

Let me make this clear at the beginning. There is no such thing as a "partial-birth abortion."

The phrase doesn't exist in medical terminology, although it's been bandied about as if it actually meant something.

You also may think that the "partial-birth abortion" laws being passed across the nation are designed to outlaw a rare late-term medical procedure.

But the truth is that just about every vaginal abortion is made criminal under stealth clauses of these laws, now passed in 28 states. Vaginal abortions include virtually all modern methods of pregnancy termination, including those in the first trimester. There is nothing "partial" here. This is an all-out assault on *Roe vs. Wade*.

Anti-choice forces have succeeded by a linguistic trick. First, these groups concoct the term "partial-birth abortion." Then, they bait public emotion

by bombarding people with images claiming to depict one medical procedure used in late-term abortions.

The switch comes when states pass new legislation that is so vague that it expands the scope of banned abortions. The laws typically say nothing about the one particular procedure portrayed in anti-choice literature, and nothing about late-term abortion. In-

and Gynecologic Society of Maryland, notes: "During any surgical abortion procedure (except a rarely used and dangerous procedure called a hysterotomy), a part of the 'living' fetus may be delivered or an intact fetus may be partially delivered." The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, representing 37,000 physicians, rejects the "partial-birth

Enormous amounts of time and energy are spent going to court in state after state to overturn the laws. And not all cases are successful.

stead, they cover terminations at any stage of pregnancy and all common methods of abortion.

So-called partial-birth abortion laws make abortion a crime when the medical provider "partially vaginally delivers a living fetus." As Dr. Steven J. Adashek, president of the Obstetrical

abortion" laws as inappropriate, ill-advised and dangerous. The American Women's Medical Association also opposes them.

Most judges aren't fooled by the "partial-birth abortion" laws. Federal Judge Charles P. Kocoras in Illinois overturned a "partial-birth abortion"

law, saying that it "prohibits the safest and most common abortion procedures." In Michigan, federal Judge Gerald Rosen, a President Bush appointee, permanently enjoined a "partial-birth abortion" law because it was so vague that doctors lacked notice about what procedures were criminal. Sixteen other states have blocked the laws.

But the path is perilous. Enormous amounts of time and energy are spent going to court in state after state to overturn the laws. And not all cases are successful.

Although later reversed, a federal district judge in Wisconsin refused to issue an injunction to put a halt to a "partial-birth abortion" law signed by the governor, which prescribes a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for doctors violating the law. A lone federal judge in Virginia overturned an injunction on legislation that threatens doctors in that state with imprisonment.

These laws are a blatant attempt to hijack women's right to choose. It's time to leave women's bodies alone and to get the government out of our doctors' offices.

Janet Benshoof is president of the Center for Reproductive Law & Policy, a New York-based group.

Community-oriented policing prevents teen crime

Mc Nelly Torres

President Clinton announced a new \$60 million initiative to assist communities in hiring police officers to combat school-related crime and violence. This program deserves our support.

While it's important to remember that 90 percent of schools don't experi-

The community solved the problem by building a wall where taggers could express themselves freely. Officers say graffiti complaints have dropped dramatically.

ence violent crimes -- according to a recent report by Education Secretary Richard Riley -- the numbers of teenagers engaged in crime and abusing drug and alcohol are still alarming.

A recent survey released by the Justice Department discovered that 58 percent of school officials recalled incidents involving guns in school grounds during the past three years.

Teen violence has forced Americans to search for measures that will make our schools and neighborhoods safer.

That's why I support Community

Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The COPS in School program will help address early problems that often lead to juvenile crime. It will also build positive relationships among officers, students and communities.

Having officers closely involved in the schools will help create a safety net. It means police can work together with students to tackle problems that are important to them.

Across the country, communities are taking a stand and reclaiming their neighborhoods by working together with law-enforcement officials to search for long-lasting solutions against crime. Success stories show bold changes in communities where this strategy has been fully embraced.

A community in South Boston confronted this issue when the courts, parents, police and parole officers joined forces to tackle the growing underage public drinking problem. Community leaders and police implemented a tougher punishment for offenders, including a substance-abuse awareness program. Parents were required to attend at least one session with the offender. These efforts led to an impressive drop in juvenile arrests for underage drinking.

In Redmond, Wash., reports about graffiti and possible gang activity prompted officers to look below the surface of what appeared to be gang activities. After interviewing several teenage offenders, officers learned the local teens considered the tagging a form of hip-hop art and not vandalism. Further research confirmed the local graffiti had no gang affiliations at all. The community solved the problem by building a wall where taggers could express themselves freely. Officers say graffiti complaints have dropped dramatically.

Community policing offers a new kind of relationship between law en-

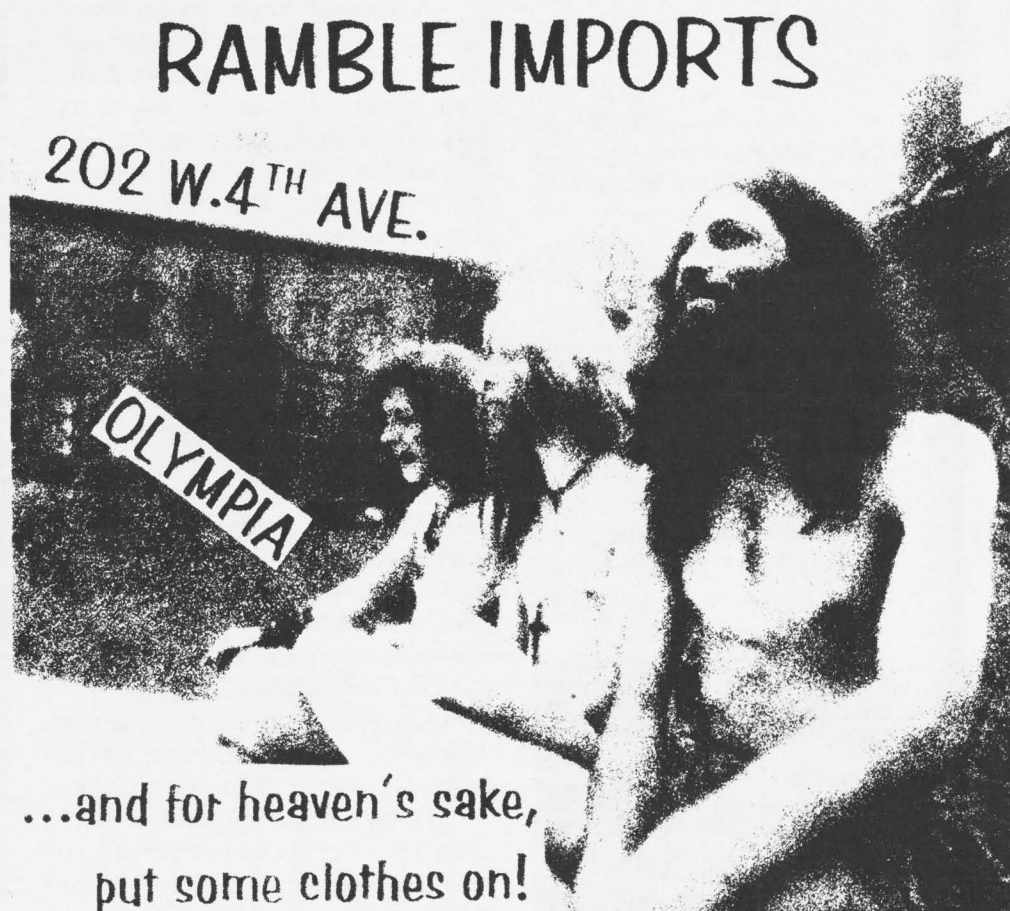
forcement and citizens. Officers assigned to schools will have the opportunity to become role models for young children, creating a sense of security on school grounds.

A community-policing officer in a small community in Amsterdam, N.Y., has already experienced the positive effects of working side by side with children and the community. On the east side of that city, officers work out of a Hispanic community center, Centro Civico, that donated space to the police department. One of the officers assigned to this neighborhood attends the Central Civico staff meet-

ings and also works in after-school programs, tutoring children and organizing field trips.

To make COPS for Schools a success, communities need to become involved. Our teens deserve to have a chance in life, but they cannot do it without our help.

Mc Nelly Torres is a crime reporter for the Lawton Constitution in Lawton, Okla. Copyright 1998, Mc Nelly Torres. Reprint or electronic distribution without permission is prohibited. Call the Progressive Media Project for information, 608-257-4626.



Iraq, continued)

that bombing just doesn't work. It hasn't yet, and it won't in the future. Killing civilians and making them miserable hasn't forced Saddam to comply with the UN, and I doubt he'll change his attitude. Every time the bombs drop the Pentagon gleefully claims high scores, and then months later they bomb again "because we missed some sites" or "Saddam moved the facilities before the strike," despite the Pentagon's assurances of accurate intelligence and destroyed targets. Well, which is it? If our intellect is so good and the strikes so devastating, why do we have to bomb over and over, hurting more and more innocent people?

We are told that Saddam could unleash his deadly WMD arsenal at any time, and will do so if we don't watch out. But these officials can never explain why Saddam hasn't done so, even after unprovoked, illegal acts of aggression against him by the United States and Britain. Of course the retaliation would be overwhelming, very possibly nuclear. But if Saddam is as crazy as we're being told, why would he care?

I was talking with a Gulf War veteran the other day. He had been in combat, on the front line into Iraq with the 2nd Armored ("Hell On Wheels") Division. He said, "If I was younger I'd probably want to bomb and jump up and stuff, but now.... Having been there, I think we should lift the sanctions. They aren't hurting Saddam but they're killing the people. No more bombing—it doesn't work except to kill people. I think we should just contain Saddam, like we did the Soviet Union, and negotiate."

He's right.

Some people believe that Clinton ordered the bombing to divert attention from his problems. I don't think so—even he knows that at this point, nothing can stop the impeachment madness except his resignation.

Although I'm not a Muslim, I am a human being and I'm deeply offended by Clinton's so-called "sensitivity" to Ramadan. How is this terrible destruction sensitive? I'd like to put him in front of all the Iraqi families who have lost someone, been injured or maimed, rendered homeless and terrorized, and have him explain his "sensitivity." The anguish he's caused will last all through the month of Ramadan and longer, if not permanently. I'd like to see him "feel their pain."

Aren't these grounds for impeachment?

In Palestine, an emerging nation celebrates the opening of Gaza Airport as a national sense of somebodyness.

In Central America, millions continue to recover from Hurricane Mitch.

In Washington, D.C., the eloquent Maxine Waters fights for justice. And in Olympia, concerned citizens stand with candles to protest senseless bombing, standing strong in the cold December night. •

On January 7th there will be a meeting at the Olympia Center which is on State Ave. and Columbia downtown to discuss further action.

If you want to see and make something happen please come. Please join us if you can. Bring your ideas (so we can organize more sustainable action!), signs (puppets, music, etc.), and warm clothes.

Stop the Violence

Summer Thomas

"Just remember to take Emmitt Till, Atlanta child murders, Smallpox blankets, Stonewall, the treatment of Chinese railroaders, and Apple pie all together."

- excerpt from Juba by Letta Neeley

Yesterday I was listening to NPR while they were interviewing people at a shopping mall somewhere in Michigan. The question was, does the bombing affect your shopping? I was disgusted to hear that they would even question this on the air. But my disgust grew with a fierceness as I listened to what was said. The popular response was, "oh no, I'm still gonna do my shopping because it has nothing to do with me. the bombing does not affect me." I actually learned to appreciate this pro-

Indeed, this war is an economic battle to control all the oil in Iraq, but beneath the economic surface lies a political motive that is rooted in Colonialist tendencies of racism, sexism, ageism, and ableism.

gram because it compelled me to write this letter as a way of speaking to all those who believe that this does not "affect" them. This is a cry to let us see the initiate connections between us.

Eight years ago our government bombed Iraq into Stone Age during the gulf war by dropping "smart" bombs on reservoirs, pumping stations, filtration plants, highways, irrigation canals, food processing plants and almost everything that composed the economic foundation. After the bombing they continued to prevent the capital exchange of medical supplies, food, and school supplies for oil under the economic sanctions (United Nations Resolution 661). UNICEF reports that 1.2 million people have died as a result. Living in a state of crisis for the past eight years while under the constant threat of war, Iraqi civilians have suffered tremendously emotionally, physically, and spiritually. I encourage everybody to take a moment to imagine what it might feel like to walk across a field of dead bodies, to be under the constant threat of more bombs, to watch all your loved ones slowly disappear from starvation and curable disease. The U.S. government has violated international law by bombing Iraq again and the media has bombed them twice with distorted pictures and biased word.

Saddam Hussein's image has been superimposed over the faces and lives of millions of Iraqi civilians. We can't even see their faces or hear their voices, and we can't even see our own selves in the decisions that are being made and the stories that are being reported by mainstream media.

The voice of opposition to the sanctions and bombings have been invisible behind the image of President Clinton.

Clinton's decision to strike reflects a long history of ignorance and violence, and amplifies the message that we must use weapons of mass destruction to destroy weapons of mass destruction. However, Clinton doesn't stand alone in this long history of ignorance and violence. Vicious remnants of the past have been ingrained in us all. However the question is one of privilege and op-

pression; who has been in control and whose lives have been controlled and abused? If we really want to begin to overcome the sanctions, and if we really want to overcome the oppressive laws in our own country we need to deeply look at ourselves and our pasts within the framework of this question. Only from a place of self-evaluation and reflection can we begin to educate ourselves and change the oppressive reality that surrounds us.

Indeed, this war is an economic battle to control all the oil in Iraq, but beneath the economic surface lies a political motive that is rooted in Colonialist tendencies of racism, sexism, ageism, and ableism. In our own country this Colonialist mindset remains intact as the war against People of Color, kids, women, voices of dissent, and the disabled, tears us apart. Mumia Abu Jamal

still sits on death row for a crime he did not commit as many others sit in prison for crimes they did not commit. There are connections here. Let us come together in the most effective ways by speaking in terms of connections. We need to speak to those who feel alienated from these issues in the very ways they believe that they are not affected. This may seem painfully obvious to many, however it is rare that I've seen these beliefs carried through in our actions, and the ways we communicate. There are millions of people counting on our support. What are we going to do? •

untitled

by Summer Thomas

after they dropped a bomb
on you
i whispered sweet lullabies
for a million graves
hoping that before the
explosions
they woulda looked at the space
between
"collateral damage" and
your life
then the soldiers woulda ripped
off
their numbers
and joined us in the streets
to build new bridges
for all the kids
who tread over
dead bodies
depleted uranium and
mines
with bruised and bloody feet
but not today
cause dreams don't live through
my words
cause they still shooting at what
they can't see
cause they still locking up what
they refuse to see
and i'm trying to be all i can be
but the people
they're still dying/choking/
screaming/bleeding

so people
we need to look into
each others eyes
and we need to look at the lines
we've been forced to draw
between us
so we can find the space where
new lyrics
surface from old
freedom songs
creating this moment
to be
cause this will affect us all
this does affect us all

Main reasons to oppose the bombing are:

- 1) It is an act of war against another nation which is specifically prohibited by the UN charter and outside of accepted international law.
- 2) Virtually all the victims will be innocent civilians, including many children. At this point it has been reported that 25 people have been killed, but the eventual total will undoubtedly be much higher, and the deaths due to the resulting trauma, spread of disease, and hunger will ultimately number in the thousands.*
- 3) It will have little or no impact on the stability of Saddam Hussien's regime.

What are the true motives of the US?

- 1) The existence of our enormous military creates an institutional and political need for it to be periodically engaged in order to justify its own existence.
- 2) The desire to demonstrate US supremacy, and the consequences of defying US hegemony over world oil resources.
- 3) Possibly, the short term desire of President Clinton to shift attention away from the impeachment process.

What should the US policy be?

- 1) The US, along with all other nations, should resolve international conflicts within the UN charter and accepted standards of international law.
- 2) The US should reverse its position and strongly press the UN Security Council to ease the sanctions against Iraq in order to allow for adequate food, medicine and reconstruction of Iraqi infrastructure (clean water, shelter, sewage and waste disposal, hospitals, etc.) required to meet the basic survival needs of the civilian population.*
- 3) The US should work vigorously within the UN structure to use all non-violent means available to pressure Iraq, and all nations (including our own), to respect human rights and allow for the free and fair democratic election of governments.
- 4) The US should launch a serious effort to eliminate the massive global arms industry which allows dictators like Saddam Hussien to create such enormous military institutions.
- 5) The US should reduce its own military to a size which has been determined to be necessary for defensive purposes only.

*In the five years since the Persian Gulf War, "as many as 576,000 children have died as a result of sanctions imposed against Iraq by the United Nations Security Council, according to a report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)." (New York Times, 12/1/95) If the blockade continues, UNICEF tells us, 1.5 million more children will eventually suffer malnutrition or a variety of unchecked illnesses because the sanctions make antibiotics and other standard medicines impossible to get. From: <http://www.nonviolence.org/vitw/>

STOP THE

SANCTIONS

ON LIBAQ!

The Movement To Close The School Of The Americas A Personal Testimony

Sam Pullen

One of the things that gives my life meaning is my involvement in the movement to close the School of the Americas (SOA). Over Thanksgiving break I joined friends and compatriots from across the country and traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia, to be part of a three day protest against the SOA. The SOA is a military institute funded by U.S. tax dollars that offers training to soldiers from Latin America. Graduates of the school have been responsible for countless well-documented atrocities, such as disappearances, physical and psychological torture, political assassinations, cold-blooded murder, and massacres of innocent men, women, and children. The "insurgents" targeted by these U.S.-trained death squads are peaceful religious leaders, educators, union organizers, student leaders and the indigenous people of Latin America. To protest this gross violation of human rights and democracy, over 7,000 people from all parts of the U.S. and around the world demonstrated peacefully for two days and called for the close of this School of Assassins.

The movement to close the School of the Americas has been growing since 1990, when a small group protested at Fort Benning in November on the one year anniversary of a massacre committed by SOA graduates in which six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered in El Salvador. Since then, thousands of Jesuits, Catholics, Protestants, teachers, labor organizers, Hispanic Americans, students, Veterans, Native Americans, and other concerned citizens have targeted the SOA as one of the most horrific manifestations of an extremely violent and destructive foreign policy in Latin America. In 1997, over 1500 people were present at the November demonstration at Fort Benning, and 601 were arrested for committing civil disobedience. The fact that there were over three times as many people present to demonstrate and risk arrest this year compared to last is evidence of growing public sentiment that the school must be closed and U.S. foreign policy in Latin America must be changed.

The events that led me to travel, all the way to Georgia from Olympia, are a good illustration of how a person gets drawn into the movement. I first

learned about the School of the Americas when I was a high school student in Des Moines, Iowa. My friend Aaron showed the video School of Assassins to a group of politically active friends and urged us to help raise awareness and put pressure on Congress to shut down the school. In 1997, Aaron traveled to Fort Benning and was one of the 601 people arrested for civil disobedience in the November demonstration. Over the winter holiday he told us about his experience and asked us to make every effort we could to come

the rape and torture of Diana Ortiz, an Ursuline nun from the U.S. Another Guatemalan graduate of the SOA, Col. Julio Roberto Alpirez, was linked to the killing of Michael DeVine, an American innkeeper in Guatemala, and the torture and death of Efrain Bamaca Velasquez, the husband of American lawyer Jennifer Harbury. Yet the deaths of these Americans have only been the tip of a blood-tainted iceberg in Guatemala, where SOA trained "civil defense patrols" have been responsible for a war of genocide against the poor

The fact that no one was arrested could be interpreted as a successful mobilizing effort by the protest organizers, but it could also have been a deliberate move by the military.

to the demonstration in 1998.

By networking and encouraging each other to make travel arrangements, six of us made it to the protest this year. I came from Evergreen State College; Missy from Western Washington University; Brian from Colorado College; Jeffrey took a few days off from teaching at the Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa; and Aaron and Paul came from Hampshire College in Massachusetts. In addition, Brian was given a school van and full funding from Colorado College to bring a group of seven students to the demonstrations. Aaron and Paul helped organize 60 students to come from Hampshire College on charter buses. This is how the movement grows. If every person who takes part in the demonstration convinces a few others to come the following year, the momentum will more than double each year.

Yet while encouragement from peers can be mighty persuasive, there is no form of political education more potent than a trip to Latin America. When I traveled to Guatemala the summer after I graduated from high school, I heard many personal testimonies about the horrors of war. I studied Spanish at Centro Maya de Idiomas, a language school in the city of Quetzaltenango run by indigenous Mayans. One of my maestros, Tito, told me that he knew of 81 acquaintances who had "disappeared" during the war. Among those who made it back alive, many had suffered from extreme forms of torture. In a casual manner typical of Guatemalans who have grown up in the midst of war, he described how one of his relatives had been burned with cigarette butts all over his body. Another friend had been tortured with a hot wire under his fingernails and electric shocks to his testicles. Tito told me these things because I asked him, and I believe he hoped that I would recount his story in the United States and help bring an end to such gruesome forms of abuse.

I have since learned that SOA graduates have been directly responsible for death squads, political assassinations, disappearances and torture in Guatemala. Some of the more well publicized atrocities in Guatemala have involved U.S. citizens. In 1991, SOA graduate General Hector Gramajo was found responsible by a U.S. court for

and the indigenous Mayan people of Guatemala. And Guatemala is just one stop on the trail of blood and terror left by SOA graduates in El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Columbia, Bolivia, and other countries of Latin America.

All of these factors motivated me to take an active role in this year's efforts to close the School of the Americas. However, I would not have been able to travel all the way to Fort Benning, Georgia, without the emotional and financial support of existing social justice networks. My airplane ticket and other travel expenses were paid for by generous scholarships of \$200 from the Catholic Worker house in Tacoma and \$100 from the Northwest School of the Americas Watch. In Omaha I hooked up with a group of people from Sacred Heart Catholic Church and enjoyed a non-stop van trip down to Georgia. Once we arrived in Fort Benning I joined a group of friends from Des Moines who had reserved a room at the Holiday Inn. I am extremely grateful for the support I received from these committed people, who welcomed me as a stranger and made it possible for me to afford this trip.

On Saturday, November 21, activists from around the world poured into Fort Benning for the day long vigil, transforming the city blocks near the entrance of the military base into a hotbed of political activity. A tremendous sense of collective solidarity was generated as thousands of people carried banners, set up information tables, paraded with giant puppets, and performed guerrilla theater skits. The atmosphere was charged with people exercising their freedom of speech and assembly.

Those of us who were considering committing civil disobedience (CD) on Sunday by crossing the property line of the military base and illegally demonstrating to close the school were required to attend CD training and a nonviolence workshop. I formed an affinity group with four friends from Des Moines, Iowa, and seven students from Colorado College. An affinity group is an important component of direct action, made up of people who will support each other as they go through the arrest process, and a few who don't risk arrest but can provide support in the form of transportation

and communication to family members in the event of emergency. We attended the 11:00 a.m. training in the sanctuary of a local church, which was filled beyond capacity with people who were planning to commit civil disobedience the next day. First, a lawyer briefed us on the possible consequences of crossing the property line of the base. He explained that demonstrating for peace on a U.S. military base is considered "trespassing", a federal crime punishable by up to six months in prison and a \$5000 fine. In past years, people who crossed the line for the first time were released with no charges after being given a Ban and Bar Letter, which forbids them from returning to Fort Benning for 5 years. Those who violate the ban and cross the line for the second time must be prepared to endure six months in prison and pay up to a \$5,000 fine. At this point Father Roy Bourgeois spoke of how the numbers of people committing civil disobedience has grown every year, generating publicity that will eventually close the school.

A woman who had years of experience with nonviolent direct action facilitated the nonviolence training. In her introduction she stated that although the twentieth century has been one of the most violent in history, it has also been the first century of an organized nonviolence movement. She emphasized that our actions to close the School of the Americas would carry on the tradition of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and thousands of other individuals who believe in the power of "active love".

She spoke from her heart as she outlined the guiding principles of the movement: "Nonviolence is a skill that can be learned, a discipline. It involves acting with a commitment that the means be consistent with the ends. We should therefore seek to transform, rather than defeat, those who are seen as our opponents. Creativity, humor and love are the foundation for our cause. It is important to act as individuals, but our power lies in the social dynamic."

"One of the most important aspects of nonviolence is to communicate clearly and truthfully about our intentions. Our aim is for underlying change in U.S. policy toward the third world, not just to close the SOA. Our presence speaks for those who have been silenced by military power in Latin America. Our mindset as we participate in the direct action should be centered, focused, meditative, prayerful, and balanced. At times when anger or fear enters our consciousness, we should reflect on our purpose for taking action and remain calm, so that we can reduce the potential for violence." In closing, all those gathered in the church pledged our commitment to eleven principles of nonviolence, which had been adapted from the Nevada Desert Experience Hiroshima/Nagasaki Interfaith Peace Witness Nonviolent Direct Action Strategy Workshop in August of 1987.

After the workshop we headed back to the main gate and spent the rest of the day participating in the vigil. From a central stage located directly in front of the Fort Benning property line, people from diverse backgrounds spoke passionately about why they believed that the School of Americas should be closed. Several prisoners of conscience, who had just been released after serving six months in prison for committing civil disobedience for the

(Continued next page)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Jan. 22nd

6pm at Bulldog News

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 26th
7pm at Olympia Library

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wip@olywa.net

(School of, continued)

second time at last year's demonstration, spoke about their motivation for making such a significant personal sacrifice. An indigenous Mayan woman from Guatemala delivered a heart-breaking personal testimony about how her two daughters and most of her family was disappeared and murdered by death squads who were organized by graduates of the SOA. A labor organizer from Seattle spoke of the need to get unions involved in the struggle, because union organizers and student activists in Latin America are often brutally repressed for demanding basic wages and rights. Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls sang three powerful songs about conditions of war in Latin America. The Heart of the Beast Theater group from Minneapolis, Minnesota performed several skits that dramatized the terror faced by people living under military regimes that are propped up by the United States.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, author of *School of Assassins*, delivered one of the most important messages of the weekend, "It is not just the School of Americas that is on trial today, the entire U.S. policy in Latin America is on trial! We will close the School of the Americas, but that is not enough." He then led the thousands gathered in an energetic rally chant, "WE WILL CLOSE THE SOA, BUT WE WILL NOT GO AWAY!"

The honor of closing the day's vigil was given to members of the Lakota Sioux tribe from South Dakota, who performed a several songs as part of a drum ceremony. An outspoken Lakota activist delivered a speech linking the struggles of her people with the indigenous people in Latin America. She reminded us of the campaign of genocide waged by the U.S. against the Native Americans and asked that we not forget the thousands of Cherokee Indians who died in Georgia while being forced on the "Trail of Tears". She declared that "the founding fathers of the U.S. took the concept of democracy from the Iroquois and they disguised it. Now the U.S. military is claiming that it teaches democracy in other countries. But the indigenous people have their own way of living and they will never give it up." The ceremony was brought to a close with the song of the American Indian Movement, an inspiring song of hope.

The most powerful part of the weekend for me came on Sunday morning when I lined up with over two thousand people who were prepared to commit civil disobedience. I linked hands with an 82 year-old woman from Des Moines, a close friend from Colorado College, and a Des Moines college professor; we sought support from each other as we faced the consequences of our action. After being blessed in a ceremony performed by indigenous Mayan people from Guatemala, we crossed the line in a solemn funeral procession, carrying coffins and white crosses that bore the names of people who had been murdered in Latin America by graduates of the School of the Americas.

Entering the Fort Benning military base was a profoundly spiritual experience. Although I shuddered and clasped hands tightly when we stepped over the boundary line, as soon as we crossed I felt a sensation of courage and peace. We walked for nearly a mile along the access road, which was lined on either side by forest in the full splendor of autumn. Looking ahead I saw hundreds of people lined up in rows of four, and behind me there were

thousands of people still crossing the line. The entire procession moved in silence until we were stopped before a brigade of buses that were to drive us to a processing center. As I noticed the rustling of the leaves in the trees overhead, I whispered to my friends, "Those are the winds of change." As we were loaded onto the busses, the crowd of protesters began humming the tune of "Amazing Grace" in quiet unison. In the face of such a "soul force", the military officers were courteous and respectful, perhaps even reverent. Several hours later, after being loaded onto military buses and driven to a processing center, the military released all 2,319 people without pressing charges because it was overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of people who crossed the line.

When we were released without even receiving a bar and ban letter, there was generally a sense of confusion about what to do next. In a rather unorganized manner, we regrouped and decided to march back to the main gate of Fort Benning and possibly cross the line again. We paraded for over a mile and a half through a residential area, drawing attention to our cause with chants and stopping traffic at major intersections. Along the way, we received word from Father Roy Bourgeois and the protest organizers that we should not cross the line a second time. They encouraged us to consider our release without charges as a victory and to celebrate a successful action. As we arrived back at the main gate, the street was lined with people who were cheering and congratulating us for crossing the line. An energetic group of youth was chanting, "THE FORCES AT THE SOA/ COULDN'T HANDLE US TODAY!" Shortly after passing through the victory line, I joined my friends from Iowa and drove back home to spend Thanksgiving with my family.

I have heard many mixed responses about the outcome of this protest. It is clear that both the protest organizers and the military officials were unprepared for the amount of protesters who came to Fort Benning. The fact that no one was arrested could be interpreted as a successful mobilizing effort by the protest organizers, but it could also have been a deliberate move by the military to avoid the negative press attention that was generated after last year's arrests. As I see it, there are two possible outcomes that can be considered a victory for the movement. One is the closing of the School of the Americas, which can only be decided by representatives in Congress. Until that point, the second type of victory is measured by the movement's ability to raise public awareness and get more people involved. It is clear to me that this year's November protest at the School of the Americas was successful at drawing in more people who will apply more pressure on the U.S. government to change its policy in Latin America. Speaking for myself, I know that participating in the protest has inspired me and given me motivation to work harder to achieve peace and justice.

This information and much more can be found in a book by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, *School of Assassins: The Case for Closing the School of the Americas and for Fundamentally Changing U.S. Foreign Policy*. New York: Orbis Books, 1997. Call (800) 258-5838 to place an order. ●

The Wandering Radical, Michael Parenti

Keith Purtell

I once saw the word "neurotic" defined as someone who digs a grave, stands teetering at the edge, trips himself, falls in and then lies at the bottom of the pit, moaning "Who pushed me?" Which brings me to the general observation that right-wing nuts seem chronically determined to create their own enemies. A more specific observation is the case of Michael Parenti.

This formerly mild-mannered college professor was radicalized in 1970 by several brutal state troopers and a corrupt judge. Parenti tried to inter-

life.

The struggle for a positive, constructive workplace goes on. Tactics used by corporate managers are nowadays more subtle than the machine gun, since labor unions and progressive political leaders have secured a minimum of legal rights for employees. The battle between rulers and the ruled is now generally fought with words, notwithstanding Parenti's occasional encounters with violent individuals.

It is bizarre to sometimes hear Parenti described by right-wingers as "un-American." Whose America are we talking about? The America of the Washington insider? The America of

a man like Parenti is a new kind of patriot to take up the standard of Patrick Henry and Paul Revere, who were also working men turned political activists

vene when University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, campus officials directed a garbage truck to back into a group of students. The students were participating in a demonstration objecting to the Kent State Massacre and the death of Edgar Hoults, an African-American bookstore employee who was shot in the back after being stopped on suspicion of driving while black. Troopers attacked Parenti with batons, and then appeared in court to claim they had been defending themselves! The judge ignored all evidence to the contrary and absolved the troopers of responsibility for their actions. The behavior of the troopers and the judge dishonored the ethical professionals who make up the vast majority in the judicial system and law enforcement.

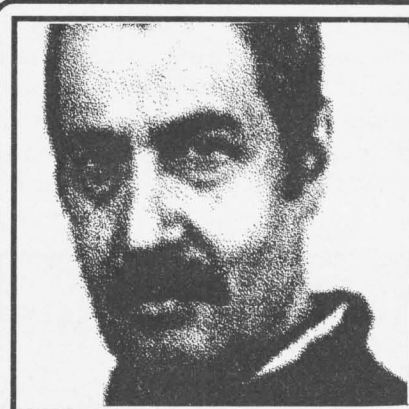
Anyway, Parenti has gone on to become a wandering radical whose political insights are too vivid and well-informed to ignore. University administrators who tried to censor Parenti by denying him employment only served the purpose of delivering him to the larger audience he has found as a left-wing road warrior. Visceral in his writing style, Parenti generally focuses on abuses of power perpetrated by institutions inside U.S. borders.

The son of hard-working Italian immigrants, Parenti saw his father's bakery driven out of business by corporations who could not match the quality he delivered, but were able to pressure grocery stores into carrying only their product. This no doubt goes a long way toward explaining Parenti's sympathy for the working stiff who sees America increasingly dominated by large, indifferent organizations. Parenti's tone is neither polite nor solicitous; he doesn't mince words when he takes on underhanded treatment of U.S. citizens within their own country.

Parenti's extended discussion of violence is appropriate, since a favorite tool of right-wingers is coercion. Throughout American history, many businessmen have turned the hallowed halls of free enterprise into a battle zone. Working people and their families have all too often been killed or brutally suppressed for nothing more than peacefully organizing for fair wages and decent working conditions. In his lectures and writing, Parenti brings Labor History - the great "forgotten" history of America - to vivid

the corporate CEO who makes \$5,000,000 per year? In reality, a man like Parenti is a new kind of patriot to take up the standard of Patrick Henry and Paul Revere, who were also working men turned political activists. Furthermore, Parenti's criticism of overbearing businesses can be interpreted as a defense of those honest and hard-working business people who, rather than viewing a business as a chance for abuse, carry out their enterprise as an opportunity for fair exchange and community development.

Suggested reading: *Democracy for the Few, Blackshirts and Reds, America Besieged*. Copyright © 1998 by Keith Purtell. All rights reserved. ●



Michael Parenti, one of America's leading progressive writers, will be in Olympia for 2 events on **Friday, February 26th**. At **noon**, he will give a presentation, "Protecting the Environment in the Era of the Global Corporation," on environmental issues at the Department of Ecology Auditorium just off Martin Way in Lacey.

You are cordially invited to this free event. For details, contact Dave, (360) 407-6752.

At **7pm**, he will speak on "Labor, Wealth, and Democracy" as a benefit for Books to Prisoners and Media Island International at the **Capitol Theater**, 206 East 5th Street, in downtown Olympia.

For details and information, call Media Island at (360) 352-8526.

Parenti's Olympia tour is proudly sponsored by the Ecology Chapter of the Washington Public Employees Association (WPEA) and the WPEA Ecology Chapter. Co-sponsorship by *Works In Progress* and KAOS Radio.

The Nation Editorial

Mumia Abu-Jamal's Last Hope

Dave Lindorff

The decision in late October by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to deny an appeal by Mumia Abu-Jamal of his death sentence for the 1981 murder of a Philadelphia police officer is a travesty that can be corrected only by the federal court system, although thanks to recent efforts to speed up executions and reduce federal court oversight of state death penalties, such intervention is unlikely. Reading the state court's ruling, one cannot help feeling that the judges are twisting themselves into pretzels to deny each of the doomed prisoner's arguments. Taking the ruling as a whole, it is clear that whether or not Abu-Jamal killed Officer Daniel Faulkner, he did not get a fair trial by the State of Pennsylvania.

In their ruling, the state supreme court judges concede that witnesses have changed their testimony—and even that they may have been initially coerced or felt pressured into giving false testimony by police and prosecutors—but then, in their wisdom and imagined prescience, they determine that these witnesses' corrected testimony would not have swayed the jury and thus are not grounds for a retrial.

The judges concede that a police officer—whose initial report on the night of the arrest made no reference to a hospital confession by Abu-Jamal but who later changed his report to include, verbatim, an alleged confession reported by two other people at the hospital—did change his recollections. They also concede that this officer was "on vacation" near the end of the trial when the defense sought to call him to the stand, and that the court failed to delay the trial to allow the defense to obtain the officer's testimony regarding the conflicting reports. Yet the judges then conclude that the officer's forgetting of a murder confession was "understandable," and that his vacation and the police

department's alleged inability to locate him were "innocent" and not "contrived." A trained police officer doesn't forget a suspect's confession. And in a trial of this prominence, the police would surely have at least known how to reach a key witness if they needed to. The change in the officer's report is critical to a judgment of Abu-Jamal's guilt or innocence.

The appeals judges also make light of the prosecution's use, during the penalty phase of the trial, of incendiary language written by Abu-Jamal a decade earlier when he was a young member of the Black Panthers. Those of us—especially writers—who were more intemperate in our language as

wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, signed into law the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, it is now extremely difficult for a federal court to intervene and overturn a state court death penalty. In the past a federal judge could look at any capital case fresh on its merits, but under new habeas corpus rules, the defense must convince a federal district judge that the state courts behaved irrationally. Abu-Jamal's defense lawyers will argue that there was irrational behavior, and will also raise Constitutional issues of prosecutorial and judicial misconduct as well as bias in jury selection—which could be grounds for ordering a retrial. Assuming a federal judge agrees to examine this case, a decision could come in days or months. Any appeal of a negative ruling would require permission from the appellate division, and if denied could lead to an execution in thirty to forty-five days.

If ever a case cried out for retrial, this is it. But it is now extremely difficult for a federal court to intervene and overturn a state court death penalty.

teenagers or young adults than we are today should find this use of old writings to convince jurors to have a man executed to be terrifying.

The judges also scoff at the notion that Judge Albert Sabo's onetime membership in the Fraternal Order of Police might mean he was biased. But consider: Abu-Jamal stood accused of killing a police officer. Sabo's FOP membership, even if lapsed, is a clear indication of his identification with the "brotherhood" of the police. Here was Sabo sitting in judgment on a man accused of killing one of the people he had chosen to consider a brother. Of course, he should have recused himself from the case. He did not, and we are left with the appearance of bias in a case that could lead to the death of an innocent man.

If ever a case cried out for retrial, this is it. But thanks to the opportunism of President Clinton, who, in the



ENDORSE MILLIONS FOR MUMIA

A NEW TRIAL FOR MUMIA IS A SIMPLE APPEAL FOR JUSTICE.

The police and courts of Philadelphia, the most notorious in the U.S. for brutality and corruption, have framed an innocent and courageous journalist. Mumia Abu-Jamal is on death row awaiting execution. His case has attracted wide support among human rights activists around the world. The Pennsylvania State Supreme Court denied African American political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal for a new trial. Governor Thomas Ridge said he will sign a death warrant for Mumia Abu-Jamal's execution.

The struggle for Mumia Abu-Jamal's life has become an epicenter of the people's movements trying to shake free from the widespread human rights violations that Amnesty International now documents as plaguing the entire United States (police brutality, runaway prison-building and use of the death penalty, harassment of asylum seekers and the marketing of weaponry). We dare not lose this struggle for Mumia. The time to act is now!

WE MUST UNITE

On Saturday, April 24th in Philadelphia, on Mumia's birthday, a massive outpouring will demand the basic right that suppressed information be heard. Together we can be a powerful force for truth. Hip hop and rap artists, international delegates, prominent political figures and religious leaders will join with tens of thousands of students and youths as well as many thousands of community activists, trade unionists and people's organizations in building a powerful mobilization in Philadelphia.

We need every prominent voice, every person who is on the move for comprehensive justice and peace, people stepping out from every public sector. The sooner you sign on, the more quickly we can build this movement. Thank you!

I want to add my name to the list of endorsing organizations and individuals for the Millions for Mumia April 24 March in Philadelphia to defend Mumia's right to life and to a fair trial.

Please include your Name, Phone, Address, City/State, Zip, email and Organization in endorsing. Please indicate if organization is for identification purposes only or if organization has officially endorsed.

Endorsements list being organized:

Millions for Mumia Mobilization

39 W. 14 St., #206

NY, NY 10011

phone: 212-633-6646

E-mail to Mark Taylor/Academics for Mumia: mark.taylor@ptsem.edu

Initiating Organizations: International Concerned Family & Friends for Mumia Abu-Jamal Academics for Mumia Black Radical Congress Bruderhoff Campaign to End Death Penalty Critical Resistance Jericho Movement Million Woman March National & Universal Movement Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal National People's Campaign New York Free Mumia Coalition Peoples Video Network Refuse & Resist ...and many more

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Olympia's Free Mumia Coalition

*Advertising - The Olympia community-based Mumia solidarity group is working toward purchasing an ad in a Pennsylvania newspaper to show that the world is watching. They estimate this will cost \$800. We need help raising money and for just \$5, your name can be listed.

*Call National Public Radio - Encourage NPR to air the reports that Mumia did for them from inside prison. Because of police pressure, they were never played. Now is our chance to try again. Call National Public Radio at 1-800-235-1212.

*If Mumia's Death Warrant is signed, this is the plan of action decided on by both community and student groups.

1. The day the warrant is signed, call everyone you know and have them meet at Percival Landing at 5pm for a candle-light vigil/protest on both sides of the 4th Ave. bridge.

2. The day after the warrant is signed, there will be a protest/march starting at Seattle Central Community College at 5pm.

3. The Saturday after the warrant is signed, there will be a protest/march starting at Seattle Central Community College at noon.

4. As soon as the death warrant is signed, various folks in Olympia will begin a hunger strike, camping out in Sylvester Park or on the Capitol Campus.

5. There is talk that high school students will have an organized walk-out if the death warrant is signed. Evergreen students will try to do the same.

If you want to help with anything (letter writing, official's addresses, speaker's bureau, etc.) or have any questions, please call EPIC at 866-6000 x6144 or 352-7336 or epic@elwha.evergreen.edu

Supreme Court to Consider Chicago's "Anti-Gang Loitering" Law

A.C.L.U.

CHICAGO -- On Wednesday, December 9, the American Civil Liberties Union and the City of Chicago will face off before the nation's highest court in the climax of a long-running battle

argue the case before the United States Supreme Court. He will be available for comment outside the court immediately after argument, along with several innocent residents who were swept up in massive police arrests.

Originally passed in 1992, the law gives police wide powers to disperse

some unspecified future crime," said Grossman. "These kinds of laws do not inform people of what they cannot do, they trap people engaged in wholly innocent conduct, and they allow police to arbitrarily select people for arrest and punishment."

During the three years that the law was enforced, Chicago police engaged in periodic "street sweeps," arresting more than 45,000 residents, most of them African American or Hispanic and many of them innocent bystanders -- with no discernible impact on crime.

"Every time the police made a gang-loitering arrest, they were tied up for hours with paperwork -- time that could have been spent curtailing real crime," said Jay A. Miller, Executive Director of the ACLU of Illinois. "At the council hearing on this law, Police Deputy Superintendent Gerald Cooper testified that in 90 percent of the cited examples of gang-related conduct, gang members would already have been subject to arrest under existing laws."

"If police were more aggressive about going after real crime in underserved neighborhoods, they wouldn't 'need' this public relations gimmick of a law," Miller added.

The ACLU's brief in the case, and an audio file of Harvey Grossman's commentary on the case at the ACLU's 1998 Supreme Court Breakfast Briefing, can be found at <http://www.aclu.org/court/summ-95.html>. © American Civil Liberties Union, 1998. •

"The Constitution does not allow arrest and prosecution based on police speculation that someone or some group may possibly commit some unspecified future crime."

over the city's "anti-gang loitering" ordinance.

ACLU of Illinois Legal Director Harvey Grossman, who successfully fought the law in the lower courts, will

any group of two or more persons in a public place "with no apparent purpose" if one of the persons is "reasonably suspected" of being a gang member. Failure to disperse results in arrest.

In 1995, the Illinois Appellate Court voided the law, saying that it "smacked of a police-state tactic." Two years later, the Illinois Supreme Court unanimously followed suit, characterizing the law as "arbitrary and likely to be enforced in a discriminatory manner."

"The Constitution does not allow arrest and prosecution based on police speculation that someone or some group may possibly commit

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Books to Prisoners Regular Events

- Books to Prisoners has moved to the downstairs back room at Bulldog News.

- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia. Training takes about 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.

- BTP Volunteer Potluck - 3rd Sun. of the month (Jan 17th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia

- Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. Please bring in or mail all the receipts you can. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.

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Books To Prisoner Page

Another Privacy Right Lost to the "War on Drugs"

WASHINGTON-- The Supreme Court ruled today that invited guests in a private home who do not stay overnight may not object to an unconstitutional search of the home because, in the court's view, they have no reasonable expectation of privacy.

"The Court's decision (<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/97-1147.ZS.html>) runs contrary to the everyday assumptions that govern the lives of most Americans," said Steven R. Shapiro, Legal Director of the ACLU.

It also means, as the dissent pointed out, that the privacy rights of homeowners are diminished as well. In the words of Justice Ginsburg, homeowners must now operate on the assumption that "their invitations to others increase the risk of unwarranted governmental peering and prying into their dwelling places."

"This is another example," Shapiro said, "of how our privacy rights are being sacrificed as part of the so-called war on drugs."

ACLU Asks Florida Governor to Investigate Confinement of Female Prisoners

MIAMI, FL -- The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida today called on Governor Lawton Chiles to appoint an independent panel to review the conditions of confinement for female prisoners in the state.

The ACLU issued its call following the second apparent suicide of a female inmate at Jefferson Correctional Institution since October.

"We believe that these tragic incidents reflect broader problems related to the conditions of confinement for female prisoners in Florida that require the investigation by independent agencies," said Howard Simon, Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida.

Attention Prisoners

W.I.P. seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:

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Steelworkers, Longshore Workers, Earth First!, I.W.W.

Frank Hoffman

What do these groups have in common? Struggles with corporate America. And a demonstration at the Port of Tacoma, December 9, 1998.

The last issue of Works in Progress featured an article by Teresa Jennings about the Steelworker strike at Kaiser Aluminum in Tacoma and other Kaiser plants. That strike continues.

The Tacoma steelworkers invited Olympia Earth First! to help it stage an

Be Reformed" - these three organisations did cooperate to plan and execute this successful action. May this kind of cooperation become commonplace, ordinary, unexceptional and the norm in America! Because if it does become the norm, America will change. America will come to honor the workers who create our standard of living and honor the Earth, which sustains us all. The locus of power will shift from owners to workers. Workers will protect the planet we are the fruit of, because common sense will replace greed.

May this kind of cooperation become commonplace, ordinary, unexceptional and the norm in America!

action at the Port of Tacoma. Earth First! invited the Olympia Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World to participate. All 3 organisations invited their colleagues in the West to join them at this rally/picket/demonstration/action/blockade in Tacoma December 9.

Only the weather didn't cooperate. It was windy, cold and rainy all day. Not a good day to unfurl 50 foot banners from dock cranes. The United Steelworkers of America, Local 7945, a national AFOF L-CIO Union; Earth First!, the adamant environmental group, known for placing their lives on the line to protect ancient forests on the West coast; the IWW, the union with the slogan, "Capitalism Cannot

Such a dream! Such a hope! Workers from the times of ancient Egypt and Greece have dreamed such dreams.

This event was remarkable because of this alliance. And all I heard that day was indicative of mutual respect. And a mutual desire to say No! to Charles Hurwitz, whose company, MAXXAM, controls both Kaiser Aluminum and Pacific Lumber, which is clear cutting redwoods in California. Where Earth Firster David Chain was killed in September by a tree felled in his direction by a Pacific Lumber timber faller.

Judi Bari, the charismatic activist who came to symbolize Earth First! in California, also belonged to the IWW. She was helping mill workers orga-

nize, this Earth Firster, when a bomb exploded in her car. Many people believe this combining of Earth First!, in the forest activity and union organizing among the same kind of workers she was blockading in the forest, led to the car bombing. She was successful in pointing to the owners who were really costing the loggers jobs by closing down mills to move production to where it was cheaper for the company, while those same owners were blaming Earth First! for the job loss. And these timber workers came to trust her. This history was in the minds of people who went to the action at the Port of Tacoma.

A ship containing the ore used to make the aluminum products in the Tacoma Kaiser plant was due at the Port of Tacoma December 9. A boat blockade from this alliance caused the ship to drop anchor out in the channel.

On the dock where this ship was to berth was a picket composed of people from Earth First!, the IWW and led by the United Steelworkers. The Longshore Union workers gathered in support.

Crews from 3 Seattle television stations came to observe and interview demonstrators. So did the Tacoma police and the Coast Guard. The police closed the dock well after the demonstration/picket was under way (we got there 5:00 that morning - it got light about 7:00), allowing people to leave, but not allowing demonstrators to en-



ter. Then they left and promised to come back and arrest the climbers up on the crane.

The climber on the crane that was to unload the ship, despite repeated attempts, some including hanging upside down, because of the wind, was unable to unfurl the banner designed to decorate the occasion. Two climbers hanging from a catwalk at least a 100 yards off the ground, did unfurl their banner, which immediately was blown straight out level with the ground. The steelworker standing on the ground next to me, as we watched the climbers being tossed around by the wind, said they'd never get me up there. Me neither, I agreed. Most of us on the ground were really frightened for the climbers.

The climbers were there doing what they were doing for the same reasons the demonstrators on the ground were carrying signs and chanting.

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Briefs continued

critics claim that the lack of ability of governments to regulate foreign investment will have an adverse effect on local governance, the environment, labor and human rights. MAI negotiations stalled in 1998 due to differences between negotiating countries and a surprisingly powerful opposition from citizens and non-governmental organizations. While the future of the MAI is uncertain at this time, critics believe that the MAI text can be understood as a general blueprint to the socio-political agenda of the world's largest corporations.

A keynote address by respected economics author **David Korten** will follow the forum, speaking at the **Labor & Industries building, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater between 6:30-8:30 pm.**

David Korten, chair of the Positive Futures Network, publishers of *Yes!* magazine, and author of the books *Getting to the 21st Century*, *When Corporations Rule the World*, and *The Post-Corporate World: Life After Capitalism*, who appeared in the PBS program *Affluenza*, will speak on "Corporations, Sustainability, and the Environment" on Monday, January 11th at noon at the Dept. of Ecology Auditorium, just off Martin Way in Lacey.

Respected economics author David Korten will be speaking about transnational corporations and the global economy at the Labor & Industries building in Tumwater, Sunday, January 10th at. David Korten is the author

of the 1995 book *When Corporations Rule the World*. Nobel Peace laureate Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu said of this book: "This is a 'must-read' book — a searing indictment of an unjust international economic order, not by a wild-eyed idealistic left-winger, but a sober scion of the establishment with impeccable credentials. It left me devastated but also very hopeful. Something can be done to create a more just economic order." The talk is free, but a free-will donation will be taken up to benefit South Sound MAI Not!

This event is being co-sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, in partnership with Community for Interfaith Celebration, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Olympia Society of Friends, Sasquatch Chapter of the Sierra Club, South Sound MAI Not! SPEECH, the Evergreen Political Information Center, the Evergreen Labor Center, Traditions Fair Trade, The Sustainable Community Roundtable and the Olympia Food Co-op.

You are invited! For more information, contact Dave at 407-6752.

Tune in & turn on!

Starting on Tuesday, 5 Jan 99, KAOS Radio, 89.3 FM, will broadcast speeches by Michael Parenti at 2:00 every Tuesday afternoon.

Olympia's 2nd Annual Sex Workers Art Show, Capitol Theater, Sat. Jan. 16, 7pm. Featuring live performances by Scarlet Harlot, Bay area prostitution activist, local musicians Two Ton Boa, and many other Pacific Northwest artists and performers. Free

licensed childcare provided, but you must call ahead. Admission price is \$10. Call 704-3084 for information.

Tacoma-Pierce County Jobs With Justice: Kaiser Steel Worker Strike Support Night. **Every Tuesday night 6-8pm. Picket at Kaiser Steel Plant Tacoma tide flats on Taylor Ave.** It's the holiday season. You are encouraged to bring: canned goods, treats, wrapped gifts, hot coffee, doughnuts and refreshments. If you can sing or play the guitar, bring it along. Help is needed to make the holiday season a little brighter for these brave workers fighting for a fair contract. Tacoma/Pierce County Jobs With Justice meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at Pierce County Annex Conference Room F, 2401 S. 35th. St. Tacoma, WA. For more information call 206/441-4969.

Once in awhile you get a chance to really make a difference. When you make the choice to answer phones at the Crisis Clinic you will positively affect not only our community but your own life as well. To be a part of the **January training** please call 586-2888 or send SASE to: Crisis Line Volunteer, PO Box 2463, Olympia, WA 98507. Applications must be received by January 15. The next training session will be January 22-24.

I BECAME INVOLVED WITH WIP BECAUSE...

by Frank Hoffman

I read an issue a ways back that had a lot of typos and misspellings. I knew just a few people were responsible for publishing the paper and that some readers would be distracted by typos and would stop reading the paper. I offered to help proofread the paper. I was told the proofing procedures and I have stayed at it.

I wanted WIP to be read because of its perspective: that the political economy of the United States is seriously flawed and has created, or was created by, a society motivated everyday by competition and greed and a sort of arrogance which flies under the cultural banner, "suburbs are excellence"; eternal expansion seems to be its religion, which is called, "Progress"; and violence to individuals and peoples, its operating philosophy.

This perspective, which I have oversimplified, is not common in the mass media of the country, as typified by the local Gannett paper. WIP is a do-it-yourself project and I admire that. No experts. No bosses. And only a modest level of wit is required or expected - the same level encountered in most people you meet on the sidewalk downtown. A certain amount of audacity is needed. If you work on the paper, you are identified as a Worker in Progress.

Some people like WIP, some don't. Most readers are kind and give us an A for Effort. WIP tries, often unsuccessfully, to not be earnest. There is a certain amount of giggling. We know there is much to be angry and sad about here in America. There is much work to be done. And life is weird. And we are lovely.

Join WIP and become weird and lovely. Or if you are already weird and lovely, then you know you should join. Or if you are not a joiner, well, send money. Or if you just wish us well, please let us know that.

Liberation Cafe is looking for collective members!

The Liberation Cafe is forming a collective and we need people interested in creating the following vision:

The Liberation Cafe (LC)/Olympia Political Cultural Center (OPCC) is committed to building a culture of resistance and solidarity based on respect, multiculturalism, empowerment, and the self-determination of all people. To that end, the LC is committed to challenging all forms of oppression and encouraging the participation of all people, particularly those marginalized by the dominant society. A major purpose of the LC will be to work for an Olympia community and a broader community that is inclusive, equal, and just.

The LC will be an open, accessible place for people to socialize, have fun, play music, watch films, listen to speakers, teach and learn, develop organizing skills, share food, dance, and display and see art. The LC promotes an alternative social and economic system based on meeting human needs, rather than the profit and wealth of a few. We seek to provide information, analysis, entertainment, art and discussion that is not available from the mainstream media & institutions.

The LC is organized in a collective manner that values the participation of all who share its principles. Members of the LC make decisions on a consensus basis.

Members of the collective will be responsible for:

- *fundraising
- *space acquisition & maintenance
- *event organizing
- *computer maintenance
- *calendar maintenance
- *actively encouraging gender, sexual orientation, age & class equity, racial, ethnic & cultural diversity & accessibility regardless of ability
- *monthly meetings
- *one calendar year commitment
- *consensus training
- *alliance training
- *and more

(If you are unable to fulfill these minimum duties, your help is still needed for committees!)

This collective will re-form Liberation Cafe. We are looking for high energy, responsible people eager to help rebuild this Olympia resource for progressive activists & the Olympia community at large. The Liberation Cafe has been a resource for radical activism in Olympia for over 2 years. The collective's aim is to improve upon this institution, make it more accessible, & revitalize it as a whole.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Liberation Cafe collective, please come to this meeting:

Friday, January 29 from 7-9pm

Olympia Community Center (room TBA; see info board by front desk), 222 N. Columbia St., downtown Olympia.

Refreshments will be provided. For further information, please call 352-7336 and leave a message.



Olympia's 2nd Annual

SEX WORKERS ART SHOW

an evening of visual & performance art created by people who work in the sex industry to dispel the myth that we are anything short of artists, innovators, and geniuses.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED

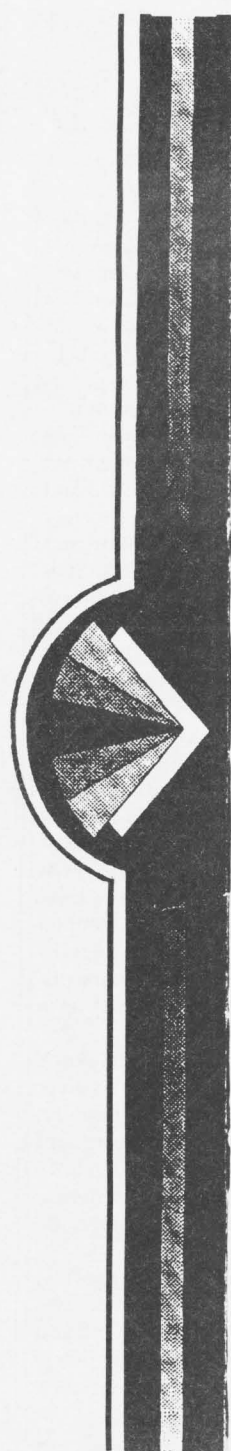
Girls and boys who are working or have worked in the sex industry (prostitutes, peep shows, phone sex, etc.) are invited to contribute any kind of visual or performance art to an extravaganza.

The Capitol Theatre
206 5th Avenue in Olympia
Saturday, Jan. 16 @ 7pm

Please call (360) 704-3084 ASAP to contribute work. Transport to the show for artists can be arranged, and food will be provided. Free licensed childcare available for artists and audience. Anonymous work is accepted.

Benefit for the Olympia Books to Prisoners Support Project!

FEATURING: SCARLET HARLOT, Bay Area
Prostitution Rights Activist & Performance Artist*
Local Musicians TWO TON BOA* artists & performers of the Pacific Northwest! *xxxxxxx*
*CALL AHEAD FOR CHILDCARE *704-3084*



WORKS IN PROGRESS

JANUARY 1999

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

FREE



photo by hali panneton

1
Stop Bombing Iraq!
&
Supporting Steel
Workers

4
Along the Color Line
Blacks In Britain

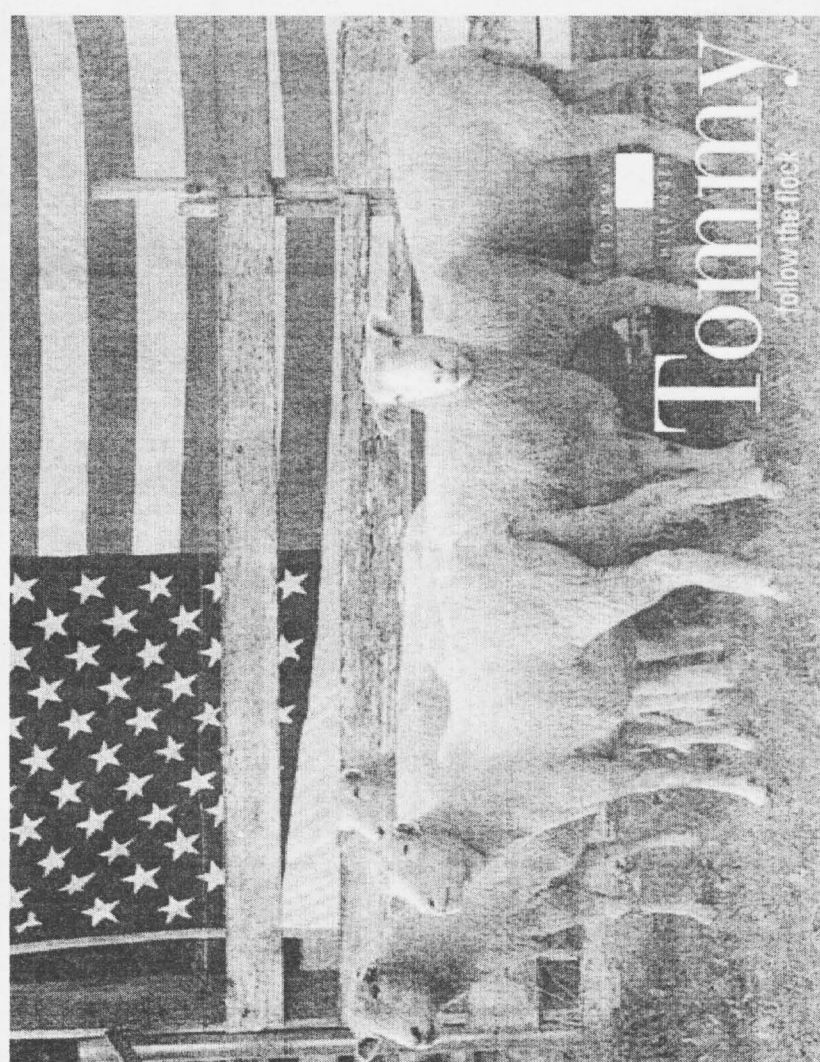
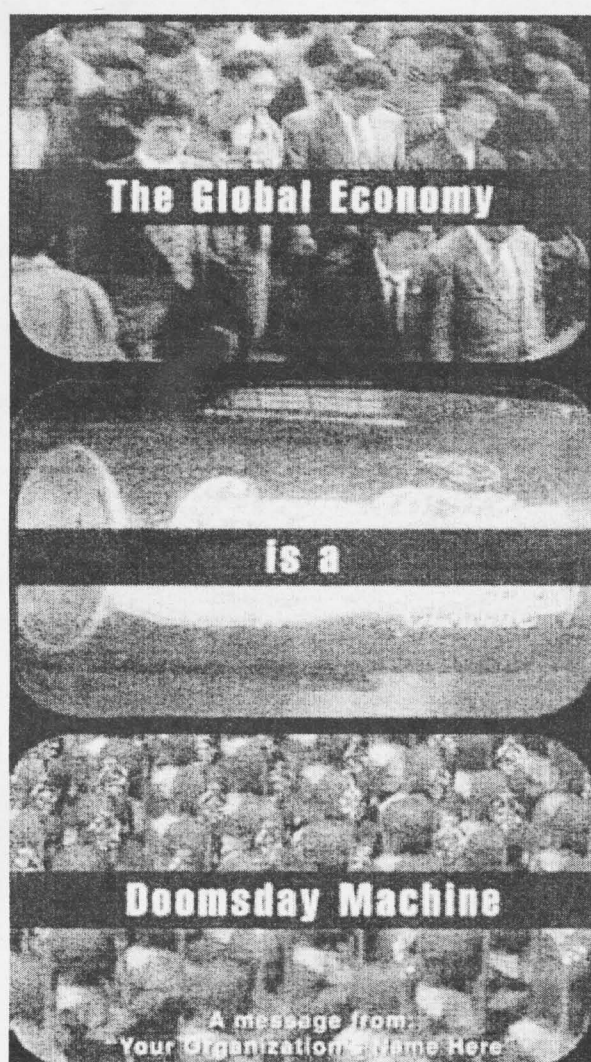
5
Single Payer
Healthcare

6
"Welfare Reform"
Stop The Clock

9
Stop The Sanctions
On Iraq Poster

10
School of the
Americas

12
Mumia's Last Hope



Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507

